

Chicago Tribune

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I thought you might be interested in the enclosed series
on terrorism which appeared in the Sunday, Monday and
Tuesday editions of the Tribune.



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Final
Edition

Sunday

Shuttle risk 'glossed over'

By Michael Tackett
and Storer Rowley
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—Challenger Commission Chairman William Rogers told NASA managers from the Marshall Space Flight Center in a private hearing that they "glossed over" serious safety problems so that "everything was almost covered up" from those who made the final decision to launch the doomed space shuttle.

The presidential commission also heard testimony at its May 2 session from engineer Allan McDonald that he felt he was "demoted" by Mor-

ton Thiokol Inc., maker of the shuttle's booster rocket, after testifying before the commission. In commission hearings in February, McDonald said he refused the night before the mission to recommend launching the Challenger in unusually cold weather, but later was overruled by his bosses. Company officials said McDonald was reassigned, not demoted.

The panel on Saturday released a 300-page transcript of the session and 110 pages of accompanying documents revealing crucial information uncovered in the commission's three-month investigation of the Jan. 28 explosion that killed

seven astronauts.

Commissioners have concluded that the failure of a seal in a joint on the right solid-fuel booster rocket triggered the accident. They reviewed evidence at the session that NASA officials have known the seal was defective since 1977, but failed to fix it or stop flying.

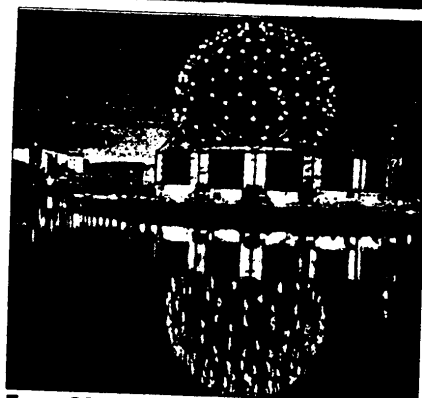
Moreover, the testimony reveals sharp and repeated questioning by panel members as to why NASA officials had not on their own produced many of the documents, which were uncovered by commission investigators.

The transcript also revealed:
● A strong statement by Rogers

that Morton Thiokol engineers such as McDonald, who testified before the commission, should not face retaliation from their company for telling "the truth" about a history of problems with the parts that failed. Rogers said he found McDonald's reassignment "shocking."

● Information that Morton Thiokol disregarded its own safety policy when it "closed out" the problem with the seal in its monthly Problem Summary Report without first correcting the defective seal. Morton Thiokol officials testified that they were trying to eliminate

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Expo 86: A fair the world will enjoy

Travel editor Alfred Borcover visits Vancouver's world's fair, Expo 86, and tells what to see and where to stay. In Travel.

A closer look

Scene or cuisine

Restaurant critic Paul Camp tours the dining rooms where the scene upstages the cuisine in The Arts.

Personal finance

Stocks? Bonds? What should investors do? In Personal Finance, Section 18.

Unusual mother

For the second time Rusty Dennis Mason, the unusual mother portrayed by Cher in the movie "Mask," is helping a son face down death in



Gourmet guru
How Alice Waters (above), the guru of organic food, is helping

Tax plan wakes up lobbyists

By Lea Donosky
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—Just after the panel he heads approved a radical rewrite of the federal tax code last week, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Robert Packwood (R., Ore.) paused for a minute of reflection.

"If you don't believe in miracles," he said, "you're not a realist."

And reality is setting in now for hundreds of lobbyists who had been bird-dogging developments toward a new tax code for months. Until almost the last minute, most did not believe the first-term Finance Committee chairman could perform the miracle of resurrection. A mere two weeks earlier, the drive to overhaul

FACING TERRORISM

